## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A picture processing method comprising:

preparing a picture energy function in advance;

enlarging an input picture;

calculating gradient values of the energy function in a pixel in the enlarged picture;

adding a sum of the gradient of said energy function and a value not dependent on the input picture to said pixel; and

updating the resulting value of said pixel for picture quality adjustment.

2. The picture processing method according to claim 1 wherein

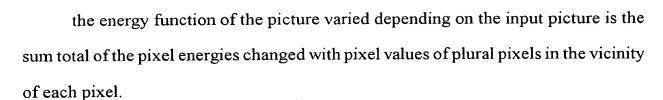
the updating processing of the pixel value is repeated a plurality of number of times.

- 3. The picture processing method according to claim 1 wherein said value not dependent on the input picture is found in advance from a plurality of pixels.
- 4. A picture processing method comprising:

preparing an energy function of a picture varied depending on an input picture; enlarging the input picture;

calculating a value which decreases the energy in a pixel of the enlarged picture; adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel; and updating the resulting value of said pixel for picture quality adjustment.

5. The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein



6. The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein

the energy decreasing value is a product of a gradient value of the energy function in the pixel of the enlarged picture with the value not dependent on the input picture.

7. The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein

the updating processing of the pixel value is repeated a plurality of number of times.

8. A picture processing method comprising:

a first step of preparing an energy function of a picture in advance and enlarging an input picture;

a second step of calculating a value which decreases the energy in a pixel in said enlarged picture; and

a third step of adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel; said second to third steps being repeated a pre-set number of times.

9. A picture processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding an energy function of a picture prepared in advance; enlarging means for enlarging an input picture;

calculating means for calculating a gradient value of said energy function in a

pixel in said enlarged picture; and

updating means for adding to said pixel a product of a gradient value of the energy function with a value not dependent on the input picture and for updating the resulting value of said pixel.

10. The picture processing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein

the calculating processing by said calculating means and the updating processing by said updating means are repeated a plurality of number of times.

- 11. The picture processing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said value not dependent on the input picture is found in advance from a plurality of pixels.
- 12. A picture processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding a previously prepared energy function of a picture varied depending on an input picture;

enlarging means for enlarging said input picture;

calculating means for calculating an energy decreasing value in a pixel in the enlarged picture; and

updating means for adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel and for updating the resulting pixel value.

13. The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein

said holding means holds the sum total of pixel energies varied depending on pixel values of plural pixels in the vicinity of each pixel as a function of the energy of the picture varied depending on said input picture.



14. The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein

said updating means adds a product of a gradient value of said energy function in a pixel in the enlarged picture with a value not dependent on the input picture as said energy decreasing value to said pixel.

15. The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein

said calculating operation by said calculating means and said updating operation by said updating means are repeated a plurality of number of times.

16. A picture processing apparatus comprising:

holding means for holding an energy function of a picture prepared in advance; enlarging means for enlarging an input picture;

calculating means for calculating an energy decreasing value in a pixel of the picture enlarged by said enlarging means; and

updating means for adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel to update the pixel value;

said calculation operation by said calculating means and the updating operation by said updating means being repeated a pre-set number of times.